



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**



**Testimony  
Smart Growth Task Force  
Regional Efficiency Subcommittee  
September 4, 2008**

Good morning Representative Reynolds, Representative Candelora and members of the Smart Growth Task Force Regional Efficiency Subcommittee. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss regional planning.

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has, since its inception in 2005, promoted regional collaboration as one of its central goals. This objective is consistent with the National Priority established by the federal Department of Homeland Security and reinforces a core principle in the emergency services field: the provision of mutual aid.

DEMHS first articulated this goal in 2005 with the Regional Planning Model. This document was refined with input from Regional Collaboration Subcommittee of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council (EMHSCC) in 2007. The revised document became known as the Regional Emergency Support Implementation Plan. The Plan clarified the vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures of the regionalization initiative and highlights the important role of chief executive officers (CEOs) in achieving the overarching goal of creating an efficient and coordinated emergency management and homeland security system. The Implementation Plan acknowledges and reinforces that "bottom up" collaborative regional planning is inherently stronger than "top down" state-centric planning because response capabilities are predominantly municipal assets available through mutual aid.

**Accomplishments:**

- Established five DEMHS Planning and Preparedness Regions in 2006 which were adopted by the Department of Public Health (DPH) when they consolidated ten public health districts into 5 regions aligned with the DEMHS regional configuration
- Continue to partner with DPH to co-locate emergency medical services councils into DEMHS regional offices.
- Initiated and worked to successfully pass into law the Act Concerning an Intrastate Mutual Aid System in 2007, Connecticut General Statutes §28-22a.
- Facilitated the establishment of, and continue to provide oversight for, Regional Emergency Planning Teams (REPTs) in each of the five DEMHS regions. REPTs are multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional governing bodies with CEO membership from every town intended to facilitate regional planning and resource allocation. All REPTs have developed and approved bylaws under which local CEOs or other local partners, as voting members, may approve region-wide resource allocations and expenditures.

**25 SIGOURNEY STREET 6<sup>TH</sup> FL, HARTFORD, CT 06106-5042  
AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

- Hired regional planners to facilitate development of all-hazards Regional Emergency Operations Plans (REOPs) for each region, as well as regional trainers to develop regional exercises and drills.
- Developed and disseminated Version 1.0 of Connecticut's Regional Evacuation and Shelter Guide, which contains information of evacuation routes, shelter locations and local hazard assessments.
- Executed a regional funding strategy to reinforce regional planning approach. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 Homeland Security Grant funding completes the progressive strategy initiated in 2004, and continued in 2005 and 2006 which promoted regional collaboration through incentive funding (administered by Regional Planning Organizations) for those towns that pooled their resources to pursue regional projects. For FFY2007 previously designated municipal funding was distributed to the five DEMHS Regions, including a portion based on relative risk and vulnerability.
- Released in November 2007, FFY2007 Homeland Security regional collaboration grants to three RPOs representing three DEMHS Regions. In conformance with grant requirements each participating RPO is now working with DEMHS to:
  - Enhance communication with CEOs
  - Conduct resource typing (inventory) of response assets
  - Develop and execute a regional spending plan based on a needs analysis of each emergency support function (ESF)
  - Develop a REOP utilizing templates provided by DEMHS.
- Established oversight for the regional collaboration initiative through DEMHS to assure a synchronized regional planning program. Communication linkages established from REPTS, through DEMHS, to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's regional planning efforts.